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National Congress of Mothers

National parent-teacher

Magazine



NOVEMBER
1906

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National Congress of Mothers Magazine

Vol. I

NOVEMBER, 1906

No. 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS

MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF.

THE National Congress of Mothers has long felt the necessity of a medium of communication among its members, and, to serve that need, the NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS' MAGAZINE extends its greeting to everyone who is interested in childhood.

It is but nine years since the first Congress of Mothers met in Washington, yet no one who reviews the great progress that has been made throughout the world in the betterment of conditions for children, and the more thoughtful consideration of their welfare, can doubt that the influence of the Mothers' Congress has extended far beyond its own membership and has aroused the conscience of men and women everywhere.

The great question which the Congress is asking of every father and mother, every teacher, every organization and every community is: What of the child? What are you doing to develop the God-given possibilities of his nature? What do you know of his requirements, and how are you providing for them? What are you doing to remove the evils that threaten childhood and the home?

The Congress of Mothers seeks to arouse in every heart the desire to help, if ever so little, in the great mission for which the Congress is organized: To give to every child the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and morally as God would have him.

It cannot fully accomplish this purpose until every parent, every teacher, every citizen is enlisted in the movement to guard and further the interests of childhood. The most carefully protected and nurtured child must live in the world and meet its temptations. Only educated parenthood can safeguard the youth of the nation and by intelligent, purposeful, systematic effort in every village, city and State make America a land where the welfare of the child receives the highest consideration.

There are already hundreds of Mothers' and Parents' Circles reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but there should be hundreds of thousands.

The officers of the Congress cannot come in personal touch with everyone, but, through this little magazine, the message may go forth, and the most isolated and widely separated parts of the country may meet.

It will seek to help the circles by publishing stimulating articles and outlines of study, considering practical questions that meet every parent in the training

of children. There will also be outlines of work for circles whose members are not young mothers, but women whose children are grown, and who, by the experience of life, have gained the judgment and knowledge so valuable in the broad and varied fields of the world's work.

The young mothers have all they can do within the home, but when the birds have flown from the nest, the mother-work may still go on, reaching out to better conditions for other children. It may be in providing day nurseries, vacation schools, play grounds, kindergartens, manual and domestic science. It may be in forming mothers' circles and awakening in the busy mother an appreciation of all that motherhood means. It may be in working for laws regulating child labor, juvenile courts and probation, pure food, divorce and marriage, compulsory education, or any other measure for the protection of the home. It may be providing wholesome, hygienic homes through tenement house inspection, visiting nurses, schools for the defective and backward, homes for the homeless, help for the erring. It may be in fighting against any evil that menaces the purity and sacredness of the home and undermines the moral tone of society. In His name, with His words "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me" written in the hearts of every worker, blossoming into practical deeds of service, the women of to-day may effect a greater uplift in physical and moral life than has ever been felt. The Mothers' Congress, Guardian of the Children of the Nation! Is there any woman who will not enlist under that banner?

There are many thousands of members in the Congress; if each one will make it her business to add one new member this year, take the MAGAZINE herself and get one other person to take it, the MAGAZINE will be put on a sound business basis and will command all that it requires to cover the many lines of work for which the Congress stands

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

MRS. THEODORE W. BIRNEY.

THIS was written about ten years ago, but it still expresses my inmost conviction as to the meaning and importance of this work. The recognition of this need for the education of parents impelled me to organize, with the assistance of others, the National Congress of Mothers.

"In the minds of the average man and woman, with the recognition of a great need there comes a desire that the need should be met. Through years of earnest effort on the part of comparatively few persons the world is beginning to see the importance of the 'Education of Mothers,' to realize that all the work of reform, of whatever nature, will never purify civilization unless it begin at the fountain head. We cannot make over the ancestry of the world, but we can endeavor to make over ourselves; we can awaken to the responsibilities of parenthood, and with but little study it will be apparent that in the acknowledgment of the sacredness of such obligations and a desire to dis-

charge them the race will gradually evolve from its present condition of discord into one of harmonious development.

"Because maternal love has stood for all that is holiest and most self-sacrificing in the history of the world, it is natural to suppose that mothers will be quickest to grasp the significance of the work which can be accomplished through the organization of Mother's Clubs, and therefore this appeal is made to them, but parents' meetings and parents' and teachers' unions will be an inevitable sequence. The organizers of such clubs are and will be the pioneers in a campaign which will never cease until the strongholds of maternal ignorance, with their attendant evils, are wiped out of existence.

"The average mother is but indifferently equipped with knowledge for the spiritual, mental, and physical training of childhood. Is this strange when throughout the whole period of her education there has been perhaps not a single hour in which the subject was presented to her as one most worthy her attention? What a satire upon our boasted wisdom of to-day, when dead languages and higher mathematics take precedence over that knowledge which should stand pre-eminent in a woman's education! What deplorable ignorance we see on all sides, ignorance not only of the varied temperments of children but ignorance of their physical needs, with results too distressing to be dwelt upon! A gardener does not treat all plants alike. He carefully considers the organisms with which he has to deal, and fosters the conditions favorable to their highest development; but not so do we, in the child-garden of the world. *He* gives study, and patient watchfulness to his task; but what do *we* in many instances bring to ours? Some threadbare maxims, some cruel generalities and an indifference which, considering the importance of the subject, is appalling. Since the finer sensibilities of children are often ignored, it is small wonder that they are early blunted or perverted, and that ere boyhood or girlhood is attained these priceless attributes have become atrophied through lack of proper culture.

"The parents who truly love their children are they who can recognize, through the needs of their dear ones, the needs of all other children, and who feel in their inmost being the claim of childhood to happiness.

"It is not clear that in the education of mothers we have the A, B, C of reform, and that the other letters will *say themselves* when these are well learned?

"We are fully aware that many organizations are already in existence, and that they are accomplishing great results along these lines, but there is no *National* movement with the one avowed aim of concentrating the thought of the *Nation* upon the importance of *educating the mothers* and, through them, the race.

"We hope to make the Republic realize that 'its greatest work is to save the children,' and this we can accomplish just as soon as mothers' and fathers' hearts are awakened to all the needs of childhood."

"The very foundation of the whole Commonwealth is the proper bringing up of the child."—HORACE MANN.

UNTO CAESAR

PATTERSON DU BOIS.

Somewhat more than a decade ago, when child-study was beginning to invade the scientific laboratory as well as the popular round-table, I was invited to be present at a university seminar to talk to the students.

For a starter, this question was put to me: "How would you appeal to the average person who had no special interest in children, in order to lead him to see the importance of child-study?"

The inquiry was more than well-timed and proper, for it is fundamental. While it is true that few persons are competent to conduct a course of research yet, in the end, the direct utility of such research, as well as an accessory co-operation in its making, must depend, in a degree, upon the interest of the people.

Well, the answer to the question, of course was manifold. Different persons can be appealed to from different points of view. With some, the interest is awakened through the fondness of intellectual pursuit; with others, through the benevolent sentiments; with still others through the economic or "business" sense, and so forth.

Now there is one other appeal, which is, in a sense, rooted in those already mentioned and yet in another sense is the most virile, the most nearly universal of all. I refer to the sentiment of *justice*, or fairness.

There can be no objection, presumably, to my saying, that this has been the basal factor, the dominant impulse, the keynote, the *lieb-motif* of whatever work I have essayed in the interest of childhood. And there is a reason for it beyond mere personal preference or attitude.

Justice dawns in early childhood and is never extinguished. It is better than mere kindness, better than generosity, better than pity, for it controls and regulates them all. Kindness without justice is only half kind; justice without kindness is on the road to being kind.

Was it not Kant who expressed surprise that there is so much kindness and so little justice among men? And Royce notes the small productive power of mere kindliness and plasticity. The older English moralists classed the benevolences as "duties of imperfect obligation." They need the clear sight and steady hand of equity to make them effectual.

The subject of the genesis and the applications, of the rule of human justice, is too large a one for expansion here.*

My purpose in drawing attention to it now is to suggest and to illustrate what I believe to be a necessary principle in all our familiar, or non-scientific, child-study. All mothers and fathers and teachers—and all other adults for that matter—ought to be, in one degree or another, child students.

*A volume is in preparation, to be issued soon, on *The Place of Justice in Education*, by the present writer.

Now I hold that such an intellectual activity ought consciously to range itself around a single germinant and dominant idea. Otherwise it will be loose, haphazard, and gelatinous. If the essential impulse is that of being fair to the child, if it extends the square deal to all ages and stages, then there is something precise to aim for, and to tie to. We must not forget that love can be unlovely, and kindness unkind because unwise, and hence unfair.

In social morals, justice demands that we take all conditions into the count. It concedes to every one the proprietorship of his powers, and the right to the full development of his faculties. It renders unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. The unjust man, ignoring the social relation, is always cutting the ground from beneath his own feet. Injustice annuls its own action. Justice—as with all true morality—"consolidates all intelligent will power into one power," as Dr. Harris says, "so that the action of each assists the action of all."

Injustice to a baby or to an adult is a blow at the integrity of society. Strictly, there is no such thing as justice to one that is not justice to all. Society has need of the best that is potent in each of us. No one, therefore, has a right to degrade himself, any more than to impose upon his neighbor.

Justice, therefore, concerns everyone, and everyone has a persistent sense of it. With all of us it is in some degree blunted and often trampled under the foot of selfishness or passionate revenge. But it is the universal ground of appeal under the inspiration of love.

Take justice, equity, fairness, then, as the keynote of your child-study and your child-caring. It is the calmest, the most constant, the most definite, the most exact, the surest, of all ethical guides. Apply it as a balance wheel to your benevolences. Use it as a stimulus to your kindness, a guide to your sympathies, a restraint to your hasty emotions and impulses. Under its shield defend the defenseless, and aid the weak to the upbuilding of his powers. Think less of cure than of prevention, less of punishment than of right development. Otherwise you break the divine law of human justice, which is to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, as a necessary way of rendering unto God the things that are God's.

THE LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE

The next conference of the National Congress of Mothers will be held in Los Angeles in the spring of 1907. The date will be announced soon.

The California Congress was all ready to entertain the delegates last May, but the earthquake caused so many, who had planned to go, to abandon the trip that the consensus of opinion was strongly opposed to holding the conference.

The invitation has been cordially renewed for this year, and there should be a strong effort to send a delegate from every circle.

There will be special rates on the railroads, and a special train if there are enough who wish to go by the same route. An opportunity will be afforded to visit points of interest en route.

COURTESY

BY MRS. J. P. MUMFORD.

A certain New England woman is in the habit of making an annual visit to Boston, in order to breathe for a space the cultured atmosphere of the "Hub"—to enjoy its latest sensations in literature and the arts, and, incidentally, to attend to her yearly shopping. One day last spring, after purchasing some articles in a Washington street store, she was amazed to hear the saleswoman inquire:

"Shall I send these goods to the same address as last year, Mrs. C—?"

"Why," exclaimed the astonished purchaser, "is it possible that you know my name and address?"

"Yes, Mrs. C—. I have never forgotten the courtesy you showed to me when you were here last year. It is so unusual in a place like this that when it occurs we do not forget it. I remember especially that you said, 'good morning' when you came in, and 'good-bye' when you went away, and somehow the thought of it has been a pleasure to me ever since." Does not this unconscious criticism arraign the whole world of American shoppers? Do we not recall in our Paris shopping how the courteous "*bon jour*" was expected, yes, exacted of us in every little shop we entered, and how we fell into the gracious custom, and thought on our return home we would bring with us the nice French manners, which gave a touch of grace to the purchase of a bit of ribbon, or a paper of pins?

But how those leisurely resolves vanished when we found ourselves once again in the bustling cities of our native land?

Watch the rush of eager women to our department stores; see the swinging door at the entrance allowed to fly back in the face of each newcomer, since no one has time to politely protect the nose of the woman who follows her. See the anxious, strenuous crowd at the counters, each impatient of the moment's waiting for the customer who precedes her. No saleswoman expects anything but the curtest requests from such a throng, and would possibly resent, in her surprise, any personal civility which might be offered her. We do not mean to be rude. We all know that courtesy is at bottom simple kindness of heart. It is to do the thing which makes the person next us comfortable, or gives another a pleasure. We are full of this kindliness, but we are careless in the exercise of the grace, from a supposed lack of time.

For it is true that an air of leisure is necessary to the practice of courtesy. We cannot convey to a friend whom we meet some morning on the street the feeling that the encounter is a real pleasure if we have three Committee meetings awaiting us, all of which must be attended before luncheon. If we go to an afternoon reception we say a few hurried words to a very hurried hostess while someone reaches over our shoulder to take her hand before we have really dropped it; and we turn away to hurry to six other teas which must be put in before the dinner hour.

So the greeting on the street comes to be an absent nod of recognition, and

the social interchange is an automobile spin, leaving pasteboard calls behind us at the doors of our friends.

From an old book there dropped the other day a faded note. It was penned on dainty paper in a fine, delicate hand; the date was 1858.

"Miss North presents her compliments, and asks Miss Smith to an informal tea to-morrow afternoon."

To-day Miss North rings up Miss Smith on the telephone, screams her invitation in a high, excited key and gets an answer in the same tone. One minute with a hullo at one end and a good-bye at the other makes the exchange of courtesies.

The old charm of correspondence seems to be lost in the general scurry and bustle. We may well preserve the books of intimate letters which have been printed in the past. There is slight promise of more in the days to come. Lovers no longer write elegant epistles to charm and edify, nor can they wait for the slow course of mails—they telegraph!

Mrs. Todd, of Amherst, aptly illustrates the style of modern correspondence with this story: In the early thirties a young lady at boarding school, having heard that her mother had been elected president of the Church Sewing Society, wrote home as follows:

"Honored Mother: It gives me unfeigned pleasure to hear that you have at last been elevated to the position to which, by your ability and character, you are so justly entitled."

A college girl of to-day, learning that her mother had been made president of the Woman's Club in her home city, sent greetings on a postal card. "Bully for you, ma, I knew you would get there."

What value may lie in a kindly word no one can estimate. It may brighten a whole day, it may influence a lifetime. A poor young man in a Western college under great discouragements was studying for the ministry. His funds were about exhausted, but he had entered an oratorical contest for which a prize in money had been offered. The sum was not large, but it would tide him over the immediate present; if he did not win, he felt he should be obliged to give up his career.

The competition was very close and the award of the judges was finally against him. He went home in despair, feeling that he had disgraced himself with a poor effort and that he was, in every sense, a failure. The next morning a note was handed him. It was from the wife of one of the trustees, expressing warm admiration of his oration of the previous evening, and saying that she, with many of her friends, felt him as justly entitled to the prize as his successful competitor.

It was but a simple, courteous word from a kindly heart, but it took away the sting of shame in his defeat, restored his self-respect, led him to fresh endeavors, with the result that the man to-day occupies an important place among the clergymen of a metropolitan city.

Is not this a subject to which we American women may well give some thought? Is it really necessary, this incessant round in our cities of matinees, clubs, lectures, teas, balls, entertainments, charities, which take away all the blessed leisure in which we might have personal, friendly consideration of one another? In the city should be found the very flower of courtesy if the adjective urban has

any significance—urbane—as distinguished from that which is rude or inconsiderate.

I know a whole new world of action has opened upon us suddenly. A hundred paths beckon us to fields of interest of which our mothers never dreamed, and working in these fields is so fascinating and the rewards are so full of promise of high and noble things, that we cannot stay our hands, nor should we, but we must learn that we cannot till them all. We are trying to do too many things, hence our overburdened lives, and our loss of some of that rich, rare grace of the matron of the earlier day, who presided over the simple family life and who had time for the gracious words and other forms of what we now call an "old-fashioned courtesy."

PRACTICAL WORK OF SEVERAL CIRCLES

The Mothers' Union of Shreveport, Louisiana, has rendered a signal service to the State. It inaugurated the movement to establish the Juvenile Court and probation system there. Last April when the president of the Congress was in Shreveport, the Mothers' Union brought together a hundred men and women to discuss plans for drafting a bill and securing its passage.

This was done without delay, the Legislature passed the bill and the Governor gave it his approval. Mrs. Frank De Garmo, Mrs. W. L. Foster, Mrs. E. H. Randolph and District Attorney Foster did valiant, earnest work and the women's organizations of the State gave their support to the movement.

The same Mother's Union has established a home for a dozen little girls who were worse than homeless, and who, under the care of a good woman, have become attractive, happy children.

It has also fitted up and maintained a cooking school for three hundred pupils and has trebled its membership in a year.

The Fathers' and Mothers' Club of Boston continued and enlarged its very successful system of outings for poor children during the past summer. What makes their work so valuable, so different from the ordinary country-week outings, is the personal touch, the acquaintance with the children, which doubles their happiness and their benefit.

The Mothers in Council of Germantown, Pa., entirely supports a probation officer at six hundred dollars a year, meeting with her regularly and consulting with her as to the difficult problems of dealing with the children.

The Haddonfield, N. J., Mothers' and Teachers' circle is working vigorously for a law preventing the sale of cigarettes to boys under sixteen.

The Philadelphia Mothers' Club has undertaken to support one of the delinquent boys who are the wards of the Juvenile Court and are without proper home care. Last year it supported two such boys in Miss Burd's Farm School near Doylestown, and has pledged the entire support of one this year.

The Mothers' Union of Montgomery, Alabama, has given efficient aid through the year to the Boys' Reformatory at East Lake, Alabama, and to the Alabama Girls' Industrial School.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

All general correspondence of the Congress and all orders for literature should be addressed to the Secretary, MRS. EDWIN C. GRICE, 3308 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

WHICH ?

If words
Were birds
And swiftly flew
From tips
Of lips
Owned, dear, by you;
Would they
To-day
Be hawks or crows;
Or blue
And true
And sweet? Who knows?

Let's play
To-day—
We choose the best;
Birds blue
And true
With dove-like breast!
'Tis queer,
My dear,
We never knew
That words
Like birds
Had wings and flew!

WHITE-WINGED messengers come fluttering in and settling down day after day upon the secretary's desk, bringing cheer and good-will and messages of love that many times repay the labor of reply. Sometimes there are queries strange and irrelevant, but between the lines are revelations of patient endurance, courage and faith that make the spirit glad; again will come bits of news of the work and its growth that cheer the heart of the workers.

Calls for help are many: Would it not be possible through the medium of the secretary's desk to enlarge the activities and usefulness of our circles? Have you an especially attractive program, one that has proved helpful to your circle? Send it to the secretary. Have you been studying some book or undertaking some line of work which has aroused the enthusiasm of your members? Write the secretary all about it. Have any of your members or speakers during the year given talks or papers that are "worth while?" The list of loan-papers is in need of a constant supply of new subjects, or new thought on old subjects.

If each member of the Congress felt a responsibility to help in this way, and would send to the secretary whatever helpful thought came to her, and the secretary, in turn, sent flying out over this broad land of ours these "birds—blue and true, with dove-like breast," would not there grow among the workers a bond both strong and uplifting? Try it, dear members of the Congress of Mothers, you whose faces we may never see, but whose heart-throb has been felt in the "winged thought" you have sent out.

"'Tis queer, my dear, we never knew
That words, like birds, had wings and flew."

STATE NEWS

What some States have done the past year

CALIFORNIA

The California Congress of Mothers rendered prompt and valuable aid to San Francisco at the time of the earthquake. So thorough was the organization in Los Angeles and Pasadena that, three hours after the earthquake, fifty thousand luncheons were packed and on their way to the school children of San Francisco, and the next day these were followed by packing cases of children's clothing, baby foods and sewing materials for the mothers.

The Congress is now, with the co-operation of the National Secretary, sending broadcast the appeal of Superintendent Roncovieri for the aid of the school children all over the country in re-establishing the splendid school system of San Francisco. All subscriptions may be sent to Alfred Roncovieri, Superintendent of schools, Emerson School Building, San Francisco, or to Mayor Schmitz. All summer the Emergency Committee of the California Mothers' Congress has worked for the children of San Francisco. Some day, we hope the MAGAZINE may publish an account of this work from some of those who were active in it.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District of Columbia Congress, under the leadership of Mrs. A. A. Birney, has taken an active part in the inauguration of the probation system in Washington. President Roosevelt took a deep personal interest in it and Judge DeLacy will have the aid of the Congress in his work for the children.

GEORGIA

The beloved founder of the National Congress of Mothers, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, organized the Georgia Mothers' Congress last May. Mrs. Robert Zahner of Atlanta is the president.

The Congress took an active part in securing the Child Labor Law in Georgia, and will interest itself in the improvement of opportunities for the children and the homes of Georgia.

IDAHO

The Idaho State meeting is announced for October 23-24.

IOWA

The Iowa Congress of Mothers will hold its annual meeting October 23-25 in Des Moines, the beautiful city which so royally entertained the National Congress in 1900.

NEW JERSEY

The Executive Board of the New Jersey Congress has been meeting a general demand in compiling outlines for programs for the use of circles during the coming year. A certain sequence in subjects is suggested and they are arranged so as to cover the physical, mental and moral needs of the child.

It would be excellent for every state literature committee to follow this example during the current year, appending a list of reference books for every subject, giving chapter and page.

State meeting of New Jersey, November 9-10, in Moorestown.

NEW YORK

The New York State meeting will be held in Oswego, October 9-12. In the attractive prospectus of the program are noticed such subjects as "Moral Training," "Domestic Science," "School-Houses as Neighborhood Recreation Centres," "Patriotism and Literature for Children."

Daily Round Table Conferences, conducted by Mrs. D. O. Mears, should make the Assembly of great profit to all who attend.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Mothers' Congress reports steady work along all lines. Five new clubs were added last year.

Letters were sent to fifty-five county judges inquiring as to the Juvenile Court and making suggestions as to methods.

The organization committee announce that they are prepared to furnish speakers who will organize Parents' and Teachers' Meetings.

The State meeting will be held in Johnstown, November 1-3.

The National Congress of Mothers asks the interest and support of every member in making the MAGAZINE of practical help and in ensuring its financial success. The best way to do this is for every member to send at once the subscription price, together with her name and address, to Mrs. Howard W. Lippincott, P. O. Box 4043, West Philadelphia, Pa.

The subscription rate is fifty cents per year, five cents a number.

The Editorial Board also asks the hearty coöperation of the circles and State organizations in making the MAGAZINE effective as a means of communication. Will every State president appoint at once a State editor to send all important items, such as new circles established, new lines of work undertaken, legislative work for children, etc., to Mrs. Herman H. Birney, 4016 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

Such matters should be sent so as to be in hand by the first of every month.

The various circles may also coöperate by sending programs, fine addresses, successful courses of study, or any items of general interest to the same address.

STUDY OUTLINES

SUGGESTIONS FOR MOTHERS' CIRCLES IN WORK FOR BENEFIT OF CHILDREN

There are many mothers' circles which include in their membership women whose families are grown to such an age that they have time to devote to improving the general conditions affecting children.

No mothers' circle ever need disband because the children are grown up. A circle having given years to child-study for personal benefit is equipped to meet the problem affecting the broad interest of the home—and can do it far better than those who have had no study of childhood and no experience with children.

The circle in the city, which would do practical work, has so many avenues open to it that to choose what one will do is not easy.

The circle in the country has fewer things to choose from, but there is no spot where earnest mothers cannot find some helpful work for home and children if they open their eyes to the conditions about them.

No circle of parents, whether in city or country, can afford to be ignorant of national and state issues which affect the home, and can at least exert its influence in favor of every movement that will benefit the physical and moral tone of the community.

FOR THE CITY CIRCLE

One of the great reasons why more children do wrong in the city than in the country is because the natural avenues for their normal development are closed to them.

Children who have no play-ground but city streets fall into associations and influences that parents cannot easily counteract. Families in large, airy houses with good yards do not realize what a problem meets those who live in one or two rooms, overcrowded, and with no place for the children to run and romp.

A play-ground open every day in the year is one of the great safeguards for such children.

Choose a block in your city and visit every family in it. Learn how many children there are, their ages and employment and where they play.

Investigate and learn where the nearest vacant lot is, and see if it can be rented.

A load of sand in one end, with shovels, will furnish occupation for small children. Ball or tennis can be provided at small expense for older boys and girls.

A caretaker will be needed, and should be chosen for qualities which win the regard of the children and incidentally give them ideals of life.

The children who are to be the owners of the play-ground should be made to feel their individual responsibility in maintaining order.

To insure this, a good plan is to ask them all to meet you, and talk with them, and give certain responsibilities, each month, to different children.

Ball teams, tennis tournaments and other games will provide a natural, wholesome outlet for energy which without this opportunity would be expended in harmful ways.

The play-ground should be open all winter. Sleds and snow-men, when there is snow, and ball always, will be available for amusement. Running races also can be a winter sport.

The circle which establishes a play-ground will naturally come in touch with the parents of the children who use it, and if each member of the circle would make herself the friend of one family, many opportunities for use and service would be opened. The benefit would be mutual.

The play-ground will mean the salvation of many children.

The only way to help children is to reach them through their childish interests; the deepest lessons in character building are learned through the events of every-day life, and the play-ground may serve a higher purpose than mere amusement for the children. It may be the means of education in right living and in civic virtues.

Let every organization of parents which meets to plan its work for the coming year ask the question, "What can I do to make the year show progress in helping children?"

The essence of tyranny lies not in the strength of the strong, but in the weakness of the weak. Even in the free air of America there are still millions who are not free—millions who can never be free under any government or under any laws, so long as they remain what they are.

The remedy for oppression, then, is to bring in men who cannot be oppressed. This is the remedy our fathers sought; we shall find no other. The problem of life is not to make life easier, but to make men stronger, so that no problem shall be beyond their solution. It will be a sad day for the Republic when life is easy for ignorance, indolence, and apathy. The social order of the present we cannot change much if we would. The real work of each generation is to mould the social order of the future. The grown-up men and women of to-day are, in a sense, past saving. The best work of the Republic is to save the children.—DAVID STARR JORDAN.

BOOK NOTES

By Mrs. Herman H. Birney, Chairman of Literature Committee

THE AMERICAN BOY. Robert N. Willson, M.D. The John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia.

In this book Dr. Willson gives us the social evil from the medical point of view. He has attacked one of the most difficult of all subjects in a sane and sensible manner, and has written a book which, while it aims to be a book for boys and young men in college, is equally a book to help parents. Whatever we may think of giving sex-instruction to younger children, there is only one opinion as to the wrong of allowing boys to leave home unarmed against temptation. It is the universal testimony of physicians that the beginning of such sins is usually in ignorance. This book will help to open the eyes of parents as to the need of moral teaching along this line, and if put into the hands of boys of sixteen must keep them from unknowing sin. It is written with a high moral tone, asserting the nobility of the sexual side of life, but giving also clearly the negative reasons for chastity, the awful consequences of impurity. Dr. Willson, as physician to the students at the University of Pennsylvania, has much to do with young men, and his book may well be recommended to parents as the utterance of one who speaks with authority.

HOW TO TELL STORIES TO CHILDREN. Sara Cone Bryan. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1906.

Nothing can ever take the place of story-telling. Books are delightful substitutes, but the oldest stories were told, or sung, and if a child is given a choice between having a story read to him and having one told, he will always choose to have it told, unless he has heard only badly-told stories.

You cannot make a good raconteur by rule. Into nothing does personality enter more largely. One must have imagination which, if not a natural gift, must be learned in childhood, and the dramatic instinct which is even rarer; but children are not severe critics and any mother of ordinary intelligence may learn to tell stories with acceptability to the small home audience.

In "How to Tell Stories to Children," Sarah Cone Bryan takes up the subject delightfully in detail, and gives a number of good examples of stories as they should be told.

In a study of children's stories, made some years ago at Stanford University, it appeared that the important element in the child's story is action. It occupies five times the space that appearance does, about ten times that of feeling or sentiment and about twenty-five times that of moral qualities.

These facts are full of instruction to those ambitious to interest an audience of children. They need waste little time in description, esthetic details or sentiment, but tell what happened.

In nothing is Miss Bryan's book more helpful than in the art of selection, in showing what to emphasize in the re-telling of long stories.

Robert Louis Stevenson defines as an amateur the man who takes two pages to tell what the artist would tell in one. Miss Bryan re-tells Ruskin's "King of the Golden River," without the charm and poetry of Ruskin's style, it is true, but in such clear, terse, narrative form, that we realize that the great modern, English prose-master had the fault of prolixity and was no master of simple narrative.

In the same connection it is well to mention a book not new but full of most delightful suggestions as to story-telling, giving hints as to drawing word-pictures, and making vivid to a child the salient points of a narrative. In "Picture Work for Mothers and Teachers" (by Walter L. Hervey, Ph. D., President of Teachers' College, New York. Chautauqua Press. 35 cents), the author analyzes many of the Bible stories in this way, making his little book so valuable to primary Sunday-school teachers that one would wish that every teacher might read it, when one thinks of the amount of dry, stupid teaching done week after week in our Sunday-schools.

CHILDHOOD. Mrs. Theodore W. Birney. F. A. Stokes Company. \$1.25

In this little volume Mrs. Birney has gathered her recent contributions to current literature on the question of child-study and child-rearing. Dr. Stanley Hall, in his introduction, gives the following admirable criticism of the book: "It makes little pretense to erudition and there are no learned footnotes or bibliographies; but the author must either have absorbed and quietly digested the best that the authorities have to offer, or else she writes with a head and heart so full of motherhood and so freighted with its lessons and with the new and higher sense of its meaning, that she has found the right way by intuition."

Those of us who know and love the founder of this Congress realize the truth of both these suppositions. The beautiful spirit which brought the Congress of Mothers into being animates every page of this little book with its message of love and helpfulness.

DYNAMIC FACTORS IN EDUCATION. M. V. O'Shea. Macmillan Co.
\$1.50.

Professor O'Shea's new book is admirably planned for the use of Mothers' Clubs and Child Study Circles. No club could do better than take it as the basis of a year's study. Its full bibliography gives all the needed references, and the fine questions for discussion which he has appended to each chapter greatly increase its value. The clearness of his thought and the cogency of his opinions as expressed in this book mark Professor O'Shea as one of the strongest and most original forces in modern education.

RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER. Gabrielle E. Jackson. Harper Brothers.

THE CHILD. Amy E. Tanner. Rand McNally & Co.

THE RIGHT LIFE. Henry A. Stinson. A. S. Barnes & Co.

WHAT THE BABY NEEDS. Edith M. Lamb. Lord Baltimore Press, Baltimore.

"A very fascinating book, It should be in every home where there are young people."—So writes H. W. Davis Religious Work Director, Y. M. C. A., San Francisco, of

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Record of Church Work, Northfield.

"It was prepared specially for children, but the grown-up who is too old to enjoy its varied charms is in need of pity."

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O raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may co-operate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of law-breakers and criminals.

To use systematic, earnest effort to this end, through the formation of Mothers' Clubs in every Public School and elsewhere; the establishment of Kindergartens, and laws which will adequately care for neglected and dependent children, in the firm belief that united, concerted work for little children will pay better than any other philanthropic work that can be done.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to co-operate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm, the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman, who is interested in the aims of the Congress, is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.